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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/528,610

03/21/2005

Ronald J. Weeks

62760B

4031

109 7590 03/08/2007
THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SECTION,
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EXAMINER

KRUER, KEVIN R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1773

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

03/08/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/528,610

Applicant(s)

WEEKS, RONALD J.

Examiner

Kevin R. Kruer

Art Unit

1773

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 December 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-9,11,13-22 and 24-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-9,11,13-22 and 24-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 3/21/05 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/1; 12/08/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 1, 2006 has been entered.

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is not on a separate sheet. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
2. The corrections to the specification have been entered and are sufficient for overcoming the objections to the specification noted in Paragraph #2 of the final office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 1 requires component (B) comprise LDPE. Thus, the Markush group of claim 21 is inconsistent with the teachings of claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

6. Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 13-22, and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chum et al (US 5,677,383) in view of Bamberger et al (US 6,384,158).

Chum teaches a polymer blend that comprises from 5-95wt% of at least one first homogeneously branched ethylene interpolymer having at least one first comonomer, and 95-5wt% of at least one second heterogeneously branched ethylene interpolymer having at least one second comonomer (abstract). The composition has a density of 0.900-0.935g/cc and the melt range is from 0.1-100g/10min. Said composition can be fabricated into an article including multi-layered articles. The homogeneously branched interpolymer comprises a C3-C20 olefin and has a single melting point. Said interpolymer preferably comprises 35-85wt% of the composition and has a Mw/Mn of 1.8-2.8. It has a CDBI of greater than 50 (herein understood to anticipate 80-100 claimed in claim 28). The heterogeneously branched polyethylene comprises a copolymer of ethylene and a C3-C20 olefin and has a molecular weight distribution of greater than 3. Said component has at least 2 melting points, as determined using differential scanning calorimetry, between -30 and 150C. Thus, the composition as a whole has at least 3 melting points (one from the homogeneously branched ethylene and at least 2 from the heterogeneously branched ethylene).

Chum does not teach the composition may be blended with polypropylene in order to improve its melt strength. However, Bamberger teaches that it is common practice to add low levels of LDPE to a linear polyethylene in order to increase its melt index (see Background of the Invention). Furthermore, Bamberger teaches that LDPE is known in the art to have a melt strength 2-3 times greater than that of LLDPE (col 12, lines 6+). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to sufficient amounts of LDPE to the LLDPE composition taught in Chum. The motivation for doing so would have been to improve the melt strength of the composition.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed June 8, 2006 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

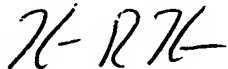
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin R. Kruer whose telephone number is 571-272-1510. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carol Chaney can be reached on 571-272-1284. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1773

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Kevin R. Kruer
Patent Examiner-Art Unit 1773